

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

211A A Little Help

By: Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: What's the best way to build our fort?

Elinor's Answer: To help each other by doing what we're good at.

Logline: After Ari and Olive get in a little disagreement over building a fort, they try to build their own, only to learn from nature that it's better to work together and help each other out using their own special skills.

Scientist: Akito Kawahara

PRIMARY GOAL - LS5. Begin to understand that animals and plants depend on other living things and nonliving things in the environment to meet some of their needs:

b. Identify the habitats of familiar animals and plants in the environment. c. Recognize that each kind of living things has a habitat that has resources to meet its unique needs.

Elinor and her friend begin to understand how different species help each other in daily life.

SEP6. Constructing explanations

a. Use background knowledge experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena b. Look for and describe patterns and relationships in natural phenomena.

c. Use and apply productive science discourse to support an explanation.

d. Use evidence to support a theory or solution to a problem.

Elinor uses the knowledge she's gained by observing the relationships in nature to convince Olive and Ari that it's better to work together and help each other.

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Olive,

LOCATIONS: Forest Path, Forest Glade, Big Tree, Rock Pile, Fort

PROPS: Picnic basket, blanket juice boxes, granola, sandwiches, rocks, sticks, leaves, ants, aphids, tarantula, Peruvian humming frog, bird.

Outline: April 04, 2023

First Draft: May 04, 2023

Second Draft: May 19, 2023

Polish Draft: May 31, 2023

RECORD DRAFT: June 7, 2023

CUTTING SOME LINES FOR TIME

1. EXT. FOREST - DAY

~~It's a beautiful fall day and the colored leaves are spectacular. ELINOR bounces OS (wearing her backpack), noticing everything as she does.~~

~~CU: She looks at some ants carrying a twig together.~~

1 1
~~ELINOR
(to herself)
So interesting.~~

~~Then she sees the tiniest little frog hopping along.~~

2 2
~~ELINOR (CONT'D)
(to the frog)
Hello itty bitty frog, have fun
hopping home!~~

~~WIDEN: Elinor still in her own world, bounces past OLIVE and ARI who have been walking ahead holding a picnic basket between them with a rolled up blanket on top.~~ OPEN WITH THIS.
ELINOR IS ALREADY WALKING W/ THEM

3 3
EXT-DOWN-TRAIL-GOS OLIVE
<SIGH> What a beautiful morning,
and we have the WHOLE day to do
whatever we want!

4 4
ARI
I know, right? We can do ANYTHING!
So.... What DO ya wanna do?

5 5
OLIVE
(shrugs)
I dunno. Maybe have a picnic?

6 6
ARI
<GASP!> ~~You've got to be kidding!~~
I was thinking the exact same
thing!

ELINOR SEES SOMETHING
AHEAD O.S., THAT GETS HER EXCITED
-SHE RUNS AHEAD, O.S.

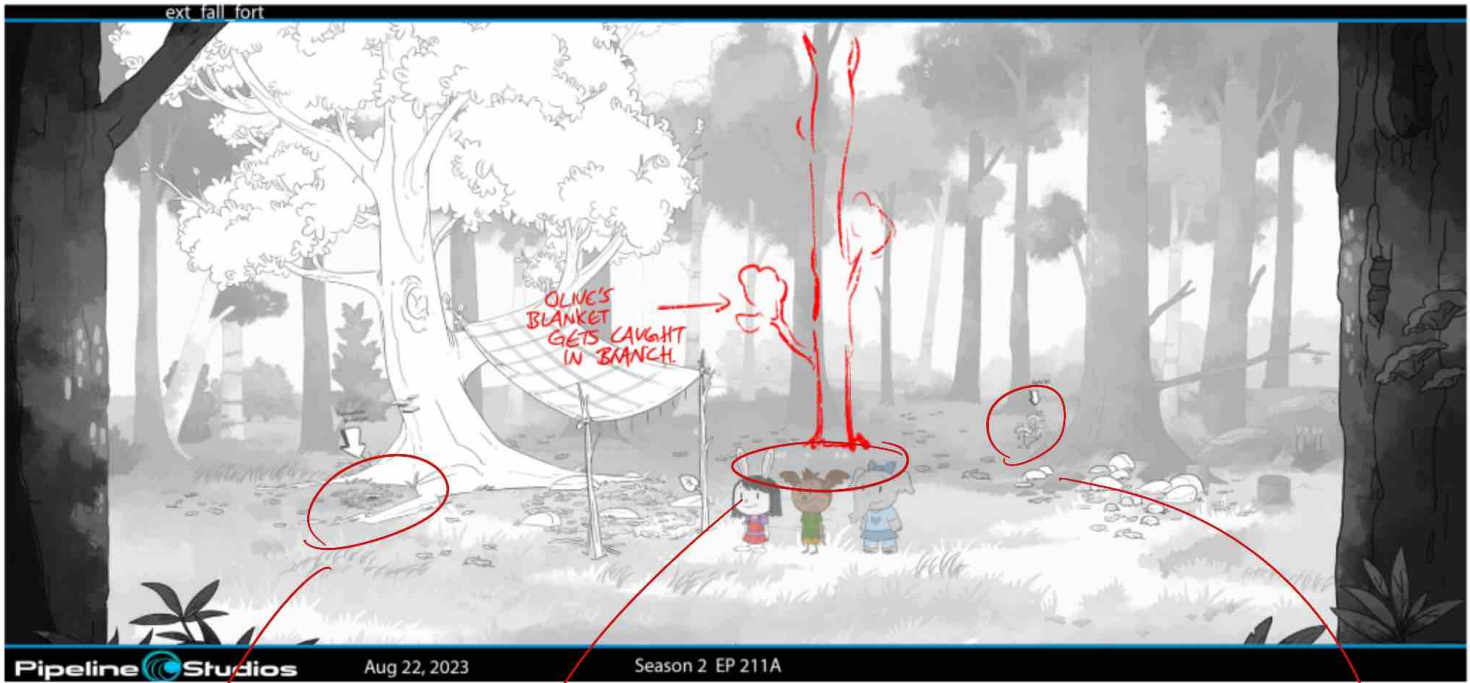
They both <SFX: LAUGH> as they swing their picnic basket between them, then at that moment Elinor calls them from OS.

7 7
ELINOR (O.C.)
Olive! Ari! Over here!

2. EXT. FOREST GLADE - DAY

Olive and Ari arrive at a pretty forest glade, a clearing surrounded by tall trees, with a particularly nice big tree to one side and a pile of rocks on the other.

CAN START TIGHTER ON ELINOR, NEAR THE NEW TREE, THAT I ADDED IN LAYOUT, ON THE NEXT PAGE. THEN TRUCK OUT AS OLIVE + ARI JOIN HER.



SPIDER
HOLE

- 3 KIDS FIRST GATHER AROUND THIS NEW TREE.
- OLIVE GETS HER BLANKET CAUGHT IN LOW BRANCH.
- AFTER ELINOR LEAVES, OLIVE + ARI SPLIT UP. OLIVE GOES LEFT, TO THE LARGE TREE, + ARI GOES RIGHT, TO PILE OF ROCKS.

ANTS AND APHIDS.

8	ELINOR	8
	I've found the perfect place for our picnic!	
9	OLIVE	9
	Wow, I love this spot.	
10	ARI	10
	Look at all these trees!	
11	ELINOR	11
	It's so cozy - it's like we're in a fort!	
12	ARI / OLIVE	12
	Yeah. / Cool.	
13	ARI	13
	Okay, picnic TIME!	
	Olive flicks the picnic blanket, it gets caught up in the tree.	
14	OLIVE	14
	Uh-oh! The blanket.	
15	ARI	15
	Don't worry Olive, I'll FLY up and untangle it.	
	Ari flies up and untangles the blanket from the branch.	
16	OLIVE	16
	Thanks Ari.	
17	ARI	17
	You are WELCOME!	
	Ari bows like the gentle-bat he is. They settle on the blanket and unpack the picnic basket.	
18	OLIVE	18
	I brought some orange juice.	
19	ARI	19
	I brought granola - I made it myself.	
	Elinor takes off her backpack and opens it.	
20	ELINOR	20
	And I brought - uh-oh!	

21	ARI	21
	Uh oh? What's that? A new kind of snack I hope.	
22	OLIVE	22
	I think she means uh oh, like oh, NO! What's wrong, Elinor?	
23	ELINOR	23
	It's just... I made three sandwiches, one for each of us.	
24	ARI	24
	Oh, are they peanut butter and pickle,	
	(to himself)	
	Please be peanut butter and pickle..	
25	ELINOR	25
	They WERE peanut butter and pickle.	
26	ARI	26
	YES!	
27	ELINOR	27
	But I left them on the counter in my kitchen.	
28	ARI	28
	Oh, NO!	
29	ELINOR	29
	It's okay, Ari. I'll just hop home and get them. I'll be right back.	
30	OLIVE	30
	Bye, Elinor.	
	Off she goes.	
31	ARI	31
	(calling)	
	Hurry back! With the SANDWICHES!	
	(looking down at his food)	
	Maybe we should wait until Elinor gets back before we finish our granola and juice.	
32	OLIVE	32
	Yeah. What do you want to do while we wait?	

33	ARI	33
	I dunno...	
	(Ari looks around)	
	Wait a minute, remember when Elinor	
	said she loves this place because	
	it's cozy like a fort?	
34	OLIVE	34
	Yeah...	
35	ARI	35
	Are YOU thinking what I'm thinking?	
36	OLIVE	36
	I think so!	
37	OLIVE/ARI	37
	Let's build a real fort! / Let's	
	build a time machine...	
38	ARI	38
	I mean...a real fort.	
39	OLIVE	39
	If we hurry we can finish before	
	Elinor gets back.	
40	ARI	40
	Then we can have our picnic <i>in</i> our	
	fort.	
41	OLIVE/ARI	41
	And there's the perfect spot!	

Olive and Ari run OS in different direction.

3. EXT. BIG TREE - DAY

ON: Olive surveys her spot.

42	OLIVE	42
	We can put the main room here, and	
	the reading room here, what do you	
	think, Ari? Ari?	

Olive looks around, where is Ari?

WIDE: He's standing beside the big pile of rocks, sussing things out.

43 ARI 43

We can put the snack room over
here, and the other snack room over
here! And here - a room for extra
SNACKS!

Olive calls from the tree.

44 OLIVE 44
Ari, what are you doing? The
perfect spot is over here, by the
big tree!

Ari looks confused.

45 ARI 45
Really? I thought you meant over
here with all these rocks, I mean
THIS is the perfect of ALL perfect
spots.

46 Really? OLIVE 46

47 ARI 47

Really!

(a beat, begging)

Pleeeeeeeze!

48 OLIVE 48
Well, since you said please...
okay...

4. EXT. ROCK PILE - CONTINUOUS

Olive joins Ari at the rock pile.

49 ARI 49
 Okay, so first we have to move
 these rocks.

OLIVE

Rocks? Okay if you says so.

Olive starts easily rolling a big rock as Ari tries to push a small-ish rock without much success.

51 OLIVE (CONT'D) 51
Uh, why are we moving these rocks?

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52                                ARI                                52
    For the WALLS, all forts have rock
    walls.. ooops.

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The rock gets away from him and bumps into Olive's toe (nothing serious).

53 OLIVE 53
Owee. ARI!

54 ARI 54
Sorry Olive. I guess they are
pretty heavy.

55 OLIVE 55

Then I think we should make the
walls out of sticks and the floor
out of leaves.

56	ARI	56
	How is that gonna work?	

57 OLIVE 57
Go and get some sticks and I'll
show you.

Olive and Ari start gathering sticks and leaves - Ari possibly flying up to collect some from the trees.

ANGLE ON: Olive bends down and picks up a big pile of leaves but when she turns around there's Ari doing the same thing with an armful of sticks. Views obscured they walk into each other.

58 OLIVE/ARI 58
 WHOOOAA!

59 ARI 59
Olive! You got your leaves all over
my sticks!

60 OLIVE 60
No... You got YOUR sticks all over
my leaves!

61 ARI 61
Well, I didn't want to use sticks
in the first place. I wanted to use
rocks.

62 OLIVE 62
Well, I didn't even want to build
the fort here, I wanted to build it
over at the TREE!

63 ARI 63
Well maybe we should just build our
own forts!

64 OLIVE 64
Well, maybe we should.

65 OLIVE/ARI 65
FINE! Hmph!

Ari turns around arms crossed as Olive crosses her arms and stomps back to her spot. It's a bit of a moment, but cute and charming.

5. EXT. BIG TREE - MOMENTS LATER

Olive has stuck a few sticks in the ground around the tree, and she's spreading leaves all over the ground. She stands up, proud.

66 OLIVE 66
There. All I need is a roof!

ANGLE ON: The picnic blanket.

67 OLIVE (CONT'D) 67
Oooh, perfect! I can use the picnic blanket.

She runs over, grabs the picnic blanket and tries to tie it to a branch above her head - but it's too high. She holds the blanket with her trunk and stands on a small log, but still can't reach. Suddenly, the log rolls.

68 OLIVE (CONT'D) 68
Whooooaa-ooo!

Olive falls over, landing (gently) on her butt and bumping into the tree. Her sticks fall over (not hitting her).

69 OLIVE (CONT'D) 69
Uh-oh!

BEAT. A bunch of leaves fall on her head.

70 OLIVE (CONT'D) 70
Ugh.

6. EXT. ROCK PILE - MEANWHILE

Ari doesn't notice Olive, he's too busy trying (and failing) to move rocks.

71 ARI 71
 (to himself)
I can move these rocks all by
myself, no problem-o.
 (grunting forcefully and
 comically)
Rrrrrr. RRRrrr. RRRRRRRR!!
 (SIGH)
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR. Whoaaa!

But no matter how hilariously he contorts himself, or how dramatically he <SFX: GRUNTS>, the rock won't budge. He struggles for two beats, but fails. Then he musters up strength... tries and sort of does it but then he loses his footing and does a front flip over the rock, collapsing beside it.

72 ARI (CONT'D) 72

Ugh!

Discouraged, Ari slumps over, but then something catches his eye. <SFX: HUH WALLA>

ANGLE ON: A group of farming ants, shepherding and caring for the small green aphids! The ants herd the aphids around to the juiciest parts of plants. DESIGN NOTE: there's even some evidence that ants build pastures of a sort, to keep their herded aphids in.

73 ARI (CONT'D) 73
 (to himself but loud)
Whoa, that's so cool!

ANGLE ON: This gets Olive's attention.

74 OLIVE 74
What's so cool.

She joins Ari observing the ants and the aphids, and they momentarily forget their fight and fall into their familiar pattern.

75 ARI 75
It looks like ants are telling
these little bugs where to go.

76 OLIVE 76
Really? Why?

77 ARI 77

So they could eat, I think. The
bugs really like those green
shoots.

78 OLIVE 78
 Ohh, I read about this in my nature
 book. These bugs are called aphids,
 and the ants are helping them find
 food.

ANGLE ON: The ants then stroke aphids with their antennae,
 coaxing them to secrete their honeydew which is then lapped
 up by the ant.

79 OLIVE (CONT'D) 79
 Hey! It looks like the aphids gave
 the ants a treat.

80 ARI 80
 Huh. The ants help the aphids find
 what to eat, and the aphids give
 the ants a treat.

81 OLIVE 81
 So they're helping each other.

82 ARI 82
 I guess.

Olive and Ari look at each other with this realization, then
 remember they're fighting. They stand up and exchange
 Seinfeld/Newman looks and harrumphs then stomp back to their
 forts and keep working.

83 OLIVE 83
 Soo, ARI, how's the fort-building?

ANGLE ON: Ari is trying to move the rocks.

84 ARI 84
 Fine, OLIVE...
 (grunts with effort)
 my rocks are almost where I want
 them to be.
 (more effort)
 How is your fort?

ANGLE ON: Olive is swinging the blanket, trying to get it to
 stay up.

85 OLIVE 85
 AWESOME...
 (effort)
 I just need to make the roof..
 (blanket falls on her
 head)
 Then I'm all done.

She takes the blanket from her head and gives up <SFX: SIGH WALLA>.

ANGLE ON: The rock Ari's trying to push starts to roll just a bit, but then rolls back into place, bumping his toe (just like Olive earlier). Then he gives up <SFX: SIGH WALLA>

BACK ON: Then Olive notices something in the crook of the tree. She <SFX: GASPS> in fright.

ANGLE ON: Ari hears her and runs over.

86	ARI	86
	What is it Olive, is everything okay?	

87	OLIVE	87
	Everything's fine, Ari. I was just surprised. Look at the size of that spider!	

ANGLE ON: The enormous but still very cute tarantula.

88	ARI	88
	Whoa, I've never SEEN a spider that big!	

As they watch Olive notices something else.

89	OLIVE	89
	Ari look! Is that...a frog? It's so small.	

90	ARI	90
	And I've never seen a frog that tiny...WAIT! It's hopping near that big spider. Watch out little froggy!	

91	OLIVE	91
	Look! The spider isn't hurting the frog! It's letting it ride on his back!	

ANGLE ON: It's true! So cute.
<https://nerdist.com/article/animal-friendships-tarantulas-spiders-have-pet-frogs/>

92	ARI	92
	And look, they're sharing a burrow, it's like they live together.	

103 OLIVE/ARI 103
Wanna build a fort together?

104 ARI 104
Yeah! Let's help each other out.

The <MUSIC> rises and the kids sing a DITTY while building their fort.

105 OLIVE/ARI 105
*Ants and bugs, spiders and frogs,
They work together, And help each
other out.
When something's gonna get you, or
steal your eggs away,
If your friends are there, it'll
all be okay!*

*CHORUS
Help each other out,
Help each other out,
Everything is better when you help
each other out!
Help each other out,
Help each other out,
Everything is awesome when you help
each other out!*

106 ARI 106
*Hey, if you're strong then help me
roll those rocks,
And when we're done we'll have some
fun!*

107 OLIVE 107
*Or if, you can fly then help me
build a roof.
When you work with friends, you
just can't lose!*

*CHORUS
Help each other out,
Help each other out,
Everything is awesome when you help
each other out!*

QUICK FORT BUILDING MONTAGE:

Olive and Ari position sticks against the big tree.

Olive holds the blanket up to Ari. He flies up ties it to the tree branch so it drapes over the fort like a roof.

Olive helps Ari roll his rocks over (Olive does most of the work - she's VERY strong).

Ari helps Olive scatter pretty leaves all over the fort floor.

They set up a big rock like a table and smaller rocks to sit on.

END MONTAGE:

8. EXT. FORT -- DAY

Olive and Ari are admiring their handiwork, when who hops in but Elinor.

108	ELINOR	108
	Hi, I'm back! Sorry I took so long.	
	My Dad loves peanut butter and	
	pickle sandwiches too so I had to	
	make some more.	
	(notices)	
	...what's this?	
109	OLIVE	109
	It's our fort!	
110	ELINOR	110
	Wow, this is AWESOME. I love the	
	blanket roof and the rock	
	furniture.	
111	OLIVE	111
	The blanket was my idea, but Ari	
	helped me put it up, because he can	
	fly.	
112	ARI	112
	And Olive help me move the rocks.	
	She's pretty strong, ya know.	
113	OLIVE	113
	We helped each other out with the	
	things we do best.	
114	ARI	114
	Yeah, we got the idea from a spider	
	and a frog.	
115	OLIVE	115
	And some ants and aphids.	

116	ELINOR	116
	What do you mean?	
117	OLIVE	117
	We'll show you.	
118	ARI/OLIVE	118
	AFTER the picnic.	
119	ARI	119
	I'm hungry.	
120	OLIVE	120
	Me too!	

They all <SFX: LAUGH> and settle in their fort to eat their sandwiches. Frog and Spider visible in the tree, ants and aphids in the foreground.

IRIS OUT

THE END.